Proposal to close down CGHS

2850. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to wind up Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has planned to introduce new health card system to Central Government employees; and

(d) whether Government is aware of the failure of health card system in the United States of America?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) No proposal is under consideration of the Government either to wind up CGHS or to issue health Cards.

Initiative for curbing declining sex ratio

†2851. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take a major policy initiative to curb the declining sex ratio in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said measures and policy initiatives are expected to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act was enacted on September 20, 1994 by the Government of India. This Act came into force in 1996.

The Act was amended in 2003 to improve regulation of technology capable of sex selection and/or sex determination in order to curb the decline in the child sex ratio as revealed by the Census 2001. With effect from 14.2.2003, due to the amendments, the Act is known as the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

The main purpose of enacting the PC and PNDT (prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 has been to:

(i) Ban the use of sex selection techniques before on after conception;

(ii) Prevent the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex selective abortions:

(iii) Regulate such techniques

Stringent punishments have been prescribed under the Act for using pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques to illegally determine the sex of the foetus. The Appropriate Authorities at the District and State levels are empowered to search, seize

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and seal the machines, equipments and records of the violators. The sale of certain diagnostic equipment is restricted only to the bodies registered under the Act.

The Government has also taken various steps to support implementation of the legislation, including through constitution of Central and State Supervisory Boards, National Inspection and Monitoring Committees (NIMC), capacity building of implementing agencies, including the judiciary and public prosecutors and community awareness generation through PRIs and community health workers such as Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a pilot scheme, "Dhanlakshmi — Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child Insurance Cover (CCT)" in March, 2009 in eleven blocks across seven states of the country, wherein cash transfers will be made to the family of the girl child (preferably the mother) on fulfilling certain specific conditionality (birth and registration, immunization, school enrolment and retention and delay in the marriage of the girl child till age of 18 years.

Deprivation of facilities to CGHS beneficiaries

2852. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries holding permanent (Life Long) Cards and having deposited the prescribed charges in CGHS dispensaries in Delhi and after retirement settled down in Faridabad and Noida, are being deprived of CGHS facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what arrangements are being made to enable them to avail CGHS facilities near their residences on the basis of the new CGHS cards which are being issued to avoid them harassment in getting health care for which they are entitled?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Central Government pensioners holding CGHS cards with life time validity are entitled to get treatment in CGHS dispensaries. Pensioner beneficiaries can avail CGHS treatment in any CGHS dispensary in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon which is nearer to their residences.

Law for protecting HIV/AIDS patients

2853. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people living with and affected by the HIV/AIDS face a lot of discrimination in our country, as there is no effective law to protect their rights and interests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to bring a comprehensive legislation to deal with the discrimination against people living with and affected by the HIV/AIDS and to protect their rights;